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PEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

April 13, 1999

The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman, Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street NW Washington, D.C. 20554

In re: RM9242

Dear Chairman Kennard:

We are writing in support of the Commission's proposed rules to license new low power FM radio stations, which would improve airwave access in local communities.

As the rate of consolidation of radio broadcast markets has increased, fewer and fewer local stations exist with close connections to communities and neighborhoods. This has resulted in a less diverse media market. Licenses for low power FM radio stations would allow more local groups -- minorities, the religious and educational communities, and non-"mainstream" voices -- to be heard in urban as well as rural markets.

The public airwaves could better serve the public by having a wider assortment of local forums for both listeners and market owners. Allowing LPFM stations could increase local presence and provide more choices to the public, better reflecting the character of the communities they serve.

We urge you to restore approval for low power FM radio broadcasting as a relatively affordable, more community-based service to include regional issues and local music more effectively in the radio markets.

Sincerely,

Paul Gieleghem

State Representative

31st District

Patricia Godchaux

State Representative

40th District

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State Representative

47th District

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